

Abstract of the Disclosure

An image processing unit is provided which can solve a problem of a conventional image processing unit in that the control for coding image data is complicated and its circuit scale is large. The image pickup apparatus picks up an image of a subject and converts it to electric signals, thereby outputting image signals. An A/D converter A/D converts the image signals, and outputs them as image data. A fixed length coding circuit breaks down the image data into small unit blocks consisting of a predetermined number of pixels, and carries out fixed length coding after obtaining the average level of the pixel data in each unit block. An exposure controller calculates a luminance level of a whole set of pixel data in the unit blocks, and controls the exposure of the image pickup apparatus so that image data becomes a predetermined luminance level.